



the **RARA RAG**

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NO. 4

DSP? CPU's? Software Control?

...Fughettaboutit!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice-President, RARA

Friday December 7th, Kevin Carey, WB2QMY will be presenting: "Hardware Defined Radio – The Lore of Vintage Communication Receivers." Even with modern high-tech, digital controlled, "DC-to-Daylight", super receivers that weigh in at just a few ounces, these gray ghosts of a simpler time are so popular again that they're demanding premium prices on the resale market! Except for those bargains picked up at the RaRa Auction, you guys should be arrested for larceny (you know who you are)!

We'll explore some receivers from the 1940's through the early 80's and what makes them so great and so desirable. What has the "eBay phenomenon" done to the price and availability of this equipment? Is eBay really the great perpetual Hamfest? Hmmm... all that glitters may not be gold. We'll learn how to acquire one (you know you want one), make some simple commonly required repairs, and discuss how to get the most out of using one of these early sets.

RaRa Regular Meeting

December 7, 2007

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Company #1

3129 East Henrietta Rd

"Hardware Defined Radio"

By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

Now, I know what you're thinking: "What are the odds of finding one that works, and where will I ever get parts?" Kevin has you covered: He's going to provide his cell phone number (1-900-2...) for 24/7 repair services to any RaRa member in good standing. So see George Masny, KA2GPJ or Dick Goslee, KG2I before the presentation and make sure your membership is renewed for 2008! Better yet, renew now because once the meeting starts, you're on your own. Just in case, Kevin will also divulge his secret sources for replacement parts and manuals.

So whether your 1st receiver was an Archer "Globe Patrol" or a Collins R-390, this presentation's for you! Bring your fondest memories and stories of your early receiver adventures to share. I know I'd like to hear some, because my earliest memories are of being scolded for generating TVI! ...No one told me not to use the TV antenna for my CB walkie-talkie! Hey, I was only 8 and already trying to work "DX" ...to the kid across the street.

As usual, we'll have refreshments thanks to the relentless efforts of Tom Austin, KA2GXX and his band of merry bakers. Let's hope the Keebler people never find out Tom has their elves. In addition, we will have some special door prizes related to the evening's program. I heard some buzz about possibly raffling off a newly restored Collins R-390!!!

So I'll see you all on Friday, December 7th at the Henrietta Fire Station #1!

SILENT KEYS

Richard W. Start, N2BUC

November 2, 2007

Louis J. Gibson, ex-WA2CBT

November 8, 2007

the RARA RAG

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.. W2EOC, Lloyd Caves, N2PU

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RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
President, RARA

Meet Your Friends at RaRa

I knew it was going to be a night to remember when I pulled into the fire hall parking lot. It was 6:25 pm and already there were 30-40 people waiting in the dark for the doors to open. There was no mistake about it. It was auction night!

Rewind to 7:00 am earlier that day. I met Lloyd, N2PU; Chet, WB2MDO and Jim, W2COP at the guard station entrance to the Monroe County Social Services office building at 111 Westfall Rd. Down the freight elevator to the basement level, around the corner to the main corridor, there was the sign on the door: K2JD.

The first thing that catches your eye when you walk through the doorway is the main operating station console: Icom IC-765 with matching speaker, power supply, amplifier, rotator control, key and microphone. On the wall above the console are contest award plaques and QSL cards from far parts of the globe.

We began the task of disconnecting and moving approximately 70 pieces of equipment out to carts stationed in the hallway. Several county workers stopped by the doorway, craning their necks to see what was going on in this mysterious room that hasn't been opened more than a dozen times since the events of 9/11 demanded increased security and limited access to the building. When work was done, we wheeled the carts back up the freight elevator to the loading dock and into vehicles for the trip up E. Henrietta Rd. to the fire hall; not before one last walk-through for forgotten items in the station. On a somber note we turned off the lights and locked the door leaving behind empty operating consoles, and roof-top runs of coax that would never again mate with an SO-239.

That evening when the crowd waiting outside the fire hall entered the meeting room they swarmed around 12 six-ft. tables covered with club station equipment. You could feel the anticipation as members checked their wallets and you could hear conversations here and there reminiscing the good times sitting at one of the club operating positions, displays glowing and the sounds of DX crackling in the air. More

people came through the doors and more chairs were setup to accommodate them. At 7:30 pm there were over one hundred RaRa club members in the hall when the announcement was made: "Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats. The auction is about to begin."

A noticeable hush permeated the room. Esteemed auctioneers, Ed Gable, K2MP and Bob Hobday, N2EVG, raised the first item for sale. "Going once. Going twice. Gone!" The first item in what was destined to be the greatest auction in RaRa history was now in the hands of a new owner. As the night progressed we witnessed piece after piece of vintage equipment sell for amazing prices including:

Drake TR-7 Complete Station	\$425.00
Heath SB-220 Amplifier	\$500.00
Yaesu FT-301 package	\$325.00
Icom IC-271A 2-M All Mode	\$140.00
Package of 3 Ham-M rotators	\$ 90.00
Ameritron AL-80A Amplifier	\$400.00
Icom IC-735 w/power supply	\$175.00
Icom IC-451 70 cm All Mode	\$ 75.00

Throughout the evening we were entertained and held captive by our knowledgeable and eloquent auctioneers. Highlights for me were the many side notes from our sometimes misty-eyed auctioneer and Club Historian as he recounted stories and provided candid insight into many of the milestone events of a bygone club station era inspired by each piece of equipment up for sale. More importantly were the smiles from the lucky high-bidders who happily opened their wallets at the cashier table. According to RaRa Treasurer, Dick Goslee, KG2I, the total value of all items sold was over \$8,300.00, far surpassing the values of any auction in the history of the club.

Yes, higher prices could have been generated through judicious placement on eBay and other Ham Radio auction sites, but your Board of Directors rightfully voted to give RaRa members first crack at a piece of RaRa Club Station history. In the end, it was clear that they made the right decision; the right decision for RaRa and the right decision for RaRa members. Congratulations to the Directors for their insight and to the lucky winning bidders for their generosity and support of their club.

For days afterwards you could often hear the chatter on local repeaters; tales recounting the events of the evening, vintage equipment sold at unbelievable prices and tales of the one that

got away; a fitting tribute to the success of the event.

My personal thanks to all who contributed to the success of this auction behind the scenes; especially Jim, W2COP; Lloyd, N2PU; Chet, WB2MDO; Irv, AF2K and the RaRa Officers and Board of Directors.

Special thanks to Ed, K2MP; Bob, N2EVG; Frank, WB2PYD and Jeanette, KC2RSZ; Irv, AF2K; Greg, KC2GXV; Tom, KA2GXX; Brad, KB2CHY and anyone else that I may have forgotten for their tireless work on auction night to insure a smooth running and enjoyable event.

This is your club. This was your event. Did you meet your friends at RaRa? See you at the meeting on December 7th.

RaRa Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline April 15, 2008

Web Page Committee

by Duane Fregoe, KC2PCG
Member RARA BOD

The time has come to update the club web page and a committee is forming to take on the task. If you have any web page developing experience or know of any easy to use software for developing and maintaining a web page we would like to hear from you. The goals are to have a consistent look between all the pages and keep the information current. Instead of burdening one person with updating the entire web page it would be nice for individuals to maintain a specific section of the web page.

Meeting notices would be maintained by one person while another person would maintain recent photos and another person would maintain the license testing page. These are just some of the ideas being tossed around and we are looking for more ideas. Please consider joining the team by contacting Duane Fregoe, KC2PCG. My contact information is listed under Board of Directors.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, December, 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

Come See the Light was the opening title for this issue and appropriate it was. This meeting, hosted by the Kodak ARC and held at the Bldg. 28 venue in Kodak Park, was a talk by Mr. Gregory Pierce of the U of R, speaking on Electro-optic Cable TV Systems.

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, reported that the current membership stands at 935 and that this would be your last Rag if you had not already renewed. Could there be an Amateur for Vice-President of the United States? Yes, if Wayne Green, W2NSD, had his way. Wayne, the controversial Editor of 73 Magazine, announced he was throwing his hat in the ring by entering the New Hampshire primary. News flash... he lost.

Pictured in this issue were Al Crum W2BWK, Sax Ringler W2SAW and George Batterson W2GB. The occasion was a celebration of W2BWK's 73rd birthday. Al's radio operating career started in 1914 when he was a wireless operator for the Goodyear Tire company and later worked for Marconi until WW2. Al Crum was later a professional photographer and much of his early work appeared in the RaRa Rag and the AWA Old Timers' Bulletin.

An interesting report told the success story of an application of PRB-1 in a Long Island court case. K2LE was denied his 80 foot tower and a Federal Judge reversed the decision saying the township failed to state any cause for doing so and failed to make any effort to reasonable accommodation as required by PRB-1.

It was with regret that James Taylor, KC2U, was reported as a silent key. Jim was well known to amateurs from WNY as the always helpful and supportive engineer from the FCC office in Buffalo. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath HW-101 from Dave Hassett, K2SQI, for \$200.00. Century 21 Realty, with Bob Roberts, WA2QAU, was a commercial advertiser.

**January Rag Deadline
December 12, 2007**

Congratulations to RDXA

RaRa wants to congratulate members of the Rochester DX Association (W2RDX) for outstanding performance during their 2007, ARRL Field Day operation. Their 3,836 QSO's yielded 13,360 points which was good for number 2 position world-wide in the hotly contested 3A category. Results like this do not just happen. Months of planning and intense work are the key as are good operators and good antennas. The weekend only Webster Park site rivals many permanent fixed stations. How about four towers, four yagis, a two element yagi on 80, a computer network for logging and inter-station coordination, a satellite station, VHF/UHF, alternative power, a station dedicated to newly licensed hams and visitors, and on, and on. FB work guys and gals.

K2MP now A1 Operator

RaRa wants to congratulate Ed Gable, K2MP, on recently being inducted into the ARRL's A1 Operator Club. This prestigious club recognizes on-air operating skills, helpfulness, friendliness and courtesy. It is an award that you cannot apply for, it just happens when secretly nominated by other A1 Operators. Ed is also celebrating 50 years of continuous ham radio operating this year.

Thank You

Dave LaForce KC2FNZ
President, ARAST, Inc

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier would like to thank all who helped to make our hamfest in September a success.

We would also like to make you aware of our winter hamfest coming on the last Saturday in February. As always, check our website

(www.arast.org) for details.

Again, thanks to all who came in September and stay tuned for more information regarding our winter hamfest coming in February.

Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Communications

Website of the Month: Here is an interesting website – the ARRL page entitled “Some QSL Card Considerations”. The URL is <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/11/01/2/?nc=twiar> or try the TinyURL <http://tinyurl.com/3cfazv>.

Remnants of Hurricane Noel Hit Northeastern US: After slamming into Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas, Noel (by then an Extratropical Storm) hit portions of Eastern New England November 3. Winds up to hurricane force caused significant tree and power line damage along with minor structural damage. The hardest hit areas were Southeast and East Coastal Massachusetts as well as Southeastern Rhode Island. Noel, which had been a Category 1 hurricane after it passed through the Bahamas, transitioned into a major “Nor’easter” system, passing less than 100 miles southeast of Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Taunton, Rob Macedo, KD1CY, stated that ARES, RACES and SKYWARN groups in Eastern Massachusetts were activated Saturday [November 3] morning. “Activation of SKYWARN started at 7 AM with operations at our NWS Taunton Ham Station, WX1BOX, with weather conditions deteriorating after 10 that morning.” Carl Aveni, N1FY, and Phil McLaughlin, KB1CYO, assisted with operations at the NWS Taunton office. With sustained strong winds at 25-35 MPH and gusts up to 60 MPH across Eastern and Southern Coastal Massachusetts and Southeastern Rhode Island that caused damage to trees and power lines, there were pockets of power outages across portions of the region; rainfall totals of 1-2 inches were common. Conditions on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard were far worse. Winds gusted well into hurricane force resulting in widespread power outages and structural damage, including damage to trees and power lines. “We received a report from the Nantucket Harbormaster of a 90 MPH measured gust in the Madaket section on the western part of the island,” said Nantucket

RACES Radio Officer and ARES Emergency Coordinator George Allen, N1NBQ. Allen and several other amateurs manned the Nantucket EOC for the entire event. “Nantucket Island sustained a high-end moderate coastal flood event with lower-end moderate coastal flooding over Cape Cod and the Islands and Southeast Plymouth County Massachusetts,” Macedo said. Cape Cod ARES District Emergency Coordinator and Cape Cod Red Cross Communications Officer Frank O’Laughlin, WQ1O, said, “I had a wind gust of 89 MPH at my home in the Marstons Mills section of Barnstable before having my anemometer ripped off the tower and blown several houses down and destroyed.” Roof damage to a few structures was reported in Falmouth and Fairhaven, Massachusetts as well as Nantucket Island. The police communications tower in Harwich blew down due to the hurricane force gusts. With the Cape Cod Red Cross using call sign K1PBO and Dan Howard, K1DYO, serving as Net Control, the 146.955 repeater in Dennis was active from 9:30 AM Saturday through 12:30 AM EDT Sunday [November 4] doing hourly roll calls of various EOCs. In between roll calls, he received other reports of damage and flooding. “Several shelters were opened, but not many people utilized them. Amateur Radio operators covered the Red Cross headquarters and also a couple of the most vulnerable shelters that may have a loss of communication capability,” Macedo said.

© *The ARRL Website*

Motorola to Acquire Vertex Standard/Yaesu: According to a press release issued by Motorola, Motorola USA has announced its intention to “launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd.” Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Upon successful completion of the tender offer and subsequent restructuring process, Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard. Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current president and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares will be approximately 12.3 billion yen (roughly US \$108 million). The bid will start November 6 and end on December 26. If the bid succeeds, shares of Vertex would be removed from the Jasdac Securities

(Sidebands continued on Page 6)

Sidebands continued from Page 5

Exchange in Japan. According to Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Yaesu's Executive Vice President for Amateur Radio Sales in North America, "I thought that the happiest and proudest day of my 45-plus years in Amateur Radio was when I was offered the opportunity to lead the Yaesu North American sales effort; however, being able to now announce this news to my fellow Amateur Radio operators takes over as the top life thrill for me! I am certain the good fortune that put me in this leadership chair at Yaesu now promises opportunities for me to do more for the technological future of Amateur Radio than I ever dreamed possible. I do not pretend to know the full extent of the positive impact this Motorola/Vertex Standard business arrangement will have on Amateur Radio - I just know it is going to be terrific for all of us who love Amateur Radio for its public service and entertainment value, as well as its potential for us to make lifelong friendships in our neighborhoods and around the world."

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Byrd Radio Clubs Recognized by School Board: The members and volunteer advisors of the William Byrd High School and the William Byrd Middle School Amateur Radio Clubs were recognized by the Roanoke County, Virginia School Board at the Board's October 24, 2007 meeting. The two Clubs were acknowledged for their successful programs in educating students about radio, electronics and communications and for their two First Place wins in the October 2006 School Club Roundup and second place finishes in the February 2007 Roundup. The High School operates as WB4HS and the Middle School as K4WBM. Both schools are recipients of ARRL Big Project grants. School Board Chairman Marion Roark welcomed the volunteers and student representative to the meeting. Michael Stovall, board member from the schools' district, presented the first place certificates. Present representing the Middle School were Principal Janet Womack and club advisors Doug Moore - K4WVS and Charlie Draper - AB4SK. From the High School were Principal Dr. Richard Turner - KZ4VT, advisors Ron Ramsey - AB4A and Phil Roark - K4WFO along with student club president Catherine Jones - KI4EVA. Jones, a High School senior, was among the first group of students in the Middle School program to get their licenses while in

Middle School. © *OurValley.org* [Roanoke, VA]

Dec. Calendar of events

- 7 - RaRa General Meeting - 7:30 PM -
HFC#1, 3129 East Henrietta Rd.
- 12 - RARA BOD Meeting - 5:00PM - RIT
- 14 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 15 - RaRa VE Testing session - 10:00AM
Bldg-9, Room-3139 RIT Campus.
- 21 - RRRA - 6:00 PM, Annual Dinner at
MacGregor's Restaurant, Jefferson Rd.

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

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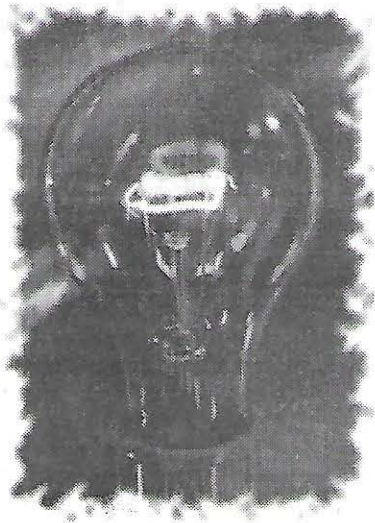
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